Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented): A computer-implemented system-updating method for updating software installed in a user computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring user computer system information including information on hardware employed in said user computer system and information on said software installed in said user computer system;

constructing a test environment for testing operations of said user computer system based on said acquired user computer system information;

updating said software in said test environment by using a software-updating patch;

determining whether or not said operations of said user computer system are carried out normally by execution of said updated software in said test environment;

supplying said software-updating patch to said user computer system; and

inserting a code of said software-updating patch into an operating system (OS) running on said user computer system, and inserting a branch code into an obsolete code of said OS in order to branch to said code of said software-updating patch.

18.   (previously presented): The system-updating method according to claim 17,

wherein said software-updating patch includes a source-code patch,

wherein said step of supplying includes sending a compiled code of said source-code patch to said user computer system, and

wherein said code of said software-updating patch includes said compiled code.

19.   (previously presented): The system-updating method according to claim 17,

wherein said test environment is a logical partition, and

wherein said step of constructing includes generating said logical partition, which is identical with said user computer system, based on hardware information of said user computer system information.

20.   (currently amended): A vendor computer system <u>having a first processor</u> for providing software to a user computer system <u>having a second processor</u>, said vendor computer system comprising:

~~a processor;~~

a means for acquiring user computer system information including information on hardware employed in said user computer system and information on said software installed in said user computer system;

a means for constructing a test environment for testing operations of said user computer system based on said acquired user computer system information;

a means for updating said software in said test environment by using a software-updating patch;

a means for determining whether or not said operations of said user computer system are carried out normally by execution of said updated software in said test environment;

a means for supplying said software-updating patch to said user computer system if said operations of said user computer system are determining to be normal,

wherein said user computer system comprises:

a means for transmitting information on said user computer system to said vendor computer system;

a means for receiving a code of a software-updating patch from said vendor computer system; and

a means for inserting a code of said software-updating patch into an operating system (OS) running on said user computer system, and inserting branch code into an obsolete code of said OS in order to branch to said code of said software-updating patch.

21.   (previously presented): The vendor computer system according to claim 20, further comprising:

a means for compiling said source-code patch,

wherein said software-updating patch includes a source-code patch,

wherein said means for supplying sends a compiled code of said source-code patch to said user computer system,

wherein said means for receiving receives said compiled code, and

wherein said code of said software-updating patch includes said compiled code.

22.   (previously presented): The vendor computer system according to claim 20, further comprising:

a means for logically dividing a real machine of said vendor computer system into a plurality of logical partitions; and

a means for generating said test environment, which is identical with said user computer system, based on hardware information of said user computer system information for one of said logical partitions.

23.   (currently amended): A user computer system having a first processor for receiving software from a vendor computer system having a second processor, said vendor computer system comprising a means for supplying a software-updating patch which is retrieved from a patch database to said user computer system, and said user computer system comprising:

a processor;

a means for constructing a test environment for testing operations of said user computer system based on user computer system information including information on hardware employed in said user computer system and information an said software installed in said user computer system;

a means for updating said software in said test environment by using said software-updating patch;

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a means for determining whether or not said operations of said user computer system are carried out normally by execution of said updated software in said test environment; and

a means for inserting a code of said software-updating patch into an operating system (OS) running on said user computer system, and inserting branch code into an obsolete code of said OS in order to branch to said code of said software-updating patch if said operations of said user computer system are determining to be normal.

24.   (previously presented): The user computer system according to claim 23, further comprising:

a means for compiling said source-code patch,

wherein said software-updating patch includes a source-code patch, and

wherein said code of said software-updating patch includes said compiled code.

25.   (previously presented): The user computer system according to claim 23, further comprising:

a means for logically dividing a real machine of said user computer system into a plurality of logical partitions; and

a means for generating said test environment which is identical with said user computer system based on hardware information of said user computer system information for one of said logical partitions.